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Los buitres gigantes de cabeza amarilla se alimentan de un perezoso de tres dedos en la selva amazónica

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flycatchers that may practice kleptoparasitism would most likely include the larger, open country species because, in an "open" habitat, potential hosts can be watched at a longer distance, hiding from kleptoparasites is more difficult, the capture and carrying of prey is more visible and prey items can be found more easily after they are relinquished by the host (Paulson 1986).

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GREATER YELLOW HEADED VULTURES FEEDING ON A THREE-TOED SLOTH IN AMAZONIAN RAINFOREST[1]

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At approximately 10am on 26 April, 1986, (J. M. H. and A. L.) found several *Cathartes melambrotus* feeding on the remains of a freshly killed three-toed sloth *Bradypus tridactylus* in primary rainforest al Reserva Florestal Adolfo Ducke, 25 km northeast of Manaus, Amazonas, Brasil. Our identification of the birds was based on their occurrence deep in primary rainforest, this being the usual habitat of *C. melambrotus* into which the very similar Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *C. burrovianus* is rarely if ever recorded Evidently the sloth had been recently killed by a jaguar. *Panthera onca* or puma *Felis concolor* (feces of which were prominent at the site) and its remains were scattered in a radius of approximately 3 meters. Our attention was attracted to the remains by the vultures when they flushed and not by the smell of decaying carrion. The smell of cat feces, however, dominated all smells in the area.

Neither Black *(Coragyps atratus)* nor Turkey *(Cathartes aura)* Vultures were observed within closed rainforest at this site during three years of fieldwork here by J. M. H. They were frequently observed in nearby open and disturbed areas, however.

We can find no published information on specific prey items of *C. melambrotus*. Our observations suggest that this species is able to detect carrion within closed rainforest. Detection of carrion by sight would be difficult in this habitat, so the birds probably locate food using a well developed sense of smell, such as has been documented in other neotropical vultures (Stager 1964, Bang 1964, Houston 1988).

Commenting on this observation, J. M. Thiollay (pers. comm.) noted that it is indeed rare to see *C. melambrotus* on a carcass though it is by far the most abundant vulture in Amazonian primary rainforest. On hebarin of several years´´observations in French Guiana, Thiollay can recall only 15-20 identified prey items. These were mostly medium- or large-sized mammals or birds that had been shot and not recovered by hunters. Finally, Thiollay notes that *C. melambrotus* will gather around carcasses along forest edges, on rocky outcrops and on riverbanks.

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